

IS AVAILABLE FOR GOVERNMENT

Washington, Nov. 2.—In accordance with the understanding reached at the conference at the White House yesterday the Philippine commission submitted to the president the preliminary report which it had promised to prepare.

The report appears to be a compact summary of conditions on the islands as the commission left them; of the historical events which preceded the Spanish war and led to the original Filipino insurrection; of the exchanges between Admiral Dewey and the other American commanders and the insurgents; the breaking out and progress of the present insurrection; and finally a statement of the capacity of the Philippines for self-government, a notable feature of the report is a memorandum by Admiral Dewey, explanatory of his relations with Aguinaldo.

The commission tells briefly how it conducted the task entrusted to it, hearing statements from all classes of people in Manila, as to the capability of the Philippines for self-government, the habits and customs of the people, and also the establishment of municipal governments in many towns. All this matter is to be included in the final report.

History of the Islands.

Turning to the history of the islands, the commission attaches little importance to the divers rebellions which had preceded that of 1896. As to this movement, they declare it was in no sense an attempt to win independence, but solely to obtain relief from intolerable abuses. To sustain this statement they quote from an insurgent proclamation, showing that what was demanded was the abolition of the tribute and the restoration to the people of their lands, with a division of the episcopal sees between Spanish and native priests.

It was also demanded that the Philippines have parliamentary representation, freedom of the press, religious toleration, economic autonomy and laws similar to those of the United States. The power of banishment was demanded, with a legal equality for all persons in law and equality in pay between Spanish and native civil servants.

The commission declares that these demands had good ground; that on paper the Spanish system of government was tolerable, but in practice every Spanish governor did what he saw fit, and the evil deeds of men in the government were hidden from Spain by strict press censorship.

The war began in 1896 was terminated by the treaty of Paris. The Philippines were numerous, but possessed about only 800 small arms. The Spaniards felt that it would require 100,000 men to capture their strongholds, and concluded to resort to the use of money. Certain concessions were also decided upon, including representation of the Philippines in the cortes, the deposition of the friars, and the abolition of the tribute. The grant of the right of association and a free press.

Governor General Rivera was willing to pay \$2,000,000 for the islands, and when his cabinet and leading officers arrived in Hongkong, it appears, however, that Paterno only offered the latter \$400,000. \$200,000 was paid, and Aguinaldo arrived at Hongkong and the balance when the Philippines had delivered up their arms. The arrangement was not acceptable to the people.

The promises were never carried out, and Spanish abuses began afresh, in Manila alone more than 200 men being executed. Hence sporadic revolutions occurred, though the people were not strong enough to break the strength of the original movement.

Philippines Unprepared For War.

The insurgents lacked arms, ammunition and leaders. The treaty had ended the war, which, with the exception of an unimportant rebellion in Cebu, had been confined to Luzon, Spain's sovereignty in the islands never having been questioned and the thought of independence never having been entertained.

The report then tells how General Augustine came to Manila as governor general at the time the islands were broken out between Spain and the United States. Augustine sought to secure the support of the Philippines to defend Spain against American aggression, but the Philippines were not prepared to do so.

On the same day Commodore Dewey telegraphed Mr. Pratt: "Tell Aguinaldo to come as soon as possible. The necessity for haste being obvious, the fact that the squadron had been notified by the Hongkong government to leave those waters by the following day."

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"It had been reported to the commission as early as March 1 by the United States consul at Manila and others that the Philippines were not prepared to defend themselves against the Spanish authority in the vicinity of Manila, and on March 10 Mr. Williams had telegraphed: 'Five thousand rebels have been reported near Cavite. I am in case of war.'"

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The commission's report then rapidly sketches events now historical. It tells in substance how the Philippines attacked the Spanish and how General Anderson arrived and Aguinaldo, at his request, removed from Cavite to Bacoor. Says the commission:

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"Now for the first time rose the idea of national independence. Aguinaldo issued a proclamation in which he took the responsibility of promising it to his people on behalf of the American government, although he admitted freely in private conversation with members of his cabinet that neither Admiral Dewey nor any other American had made him any such promise."

The report states that Aguinaldo refused to attack the Americans when they landed at Cavite, and that he was deterred by lack of arms and ammunition. From that point on there was a growing friction between the Philippines and the American troops.

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There never was any preconcerted movement of any combined movement by the United States and Philippines against the Spaniards."

Wanted to Loot Manila.

Reference is made to Aguinaldo's demand that he be allowed to loot Manila and take the arms of the Spaniards. The latter demand is said to confirm the statement that he intended to get possession of the arms to attack the Americans. Further evidence of the hostile intentions of the Philippines was found in the organization of a "loot club," which later on furnished a local militia to attack the Americans.

The decrees of the Philippine congress are also cited, as well as the making of bolts (knives) in every shop in Manila. It is shown that a considerable element in the Philippine congress wished to address President McKinley a request not to abandon the Philippines (at this stage the Paris conference was discussing the future of the Philippines). The president was asked to ask his desire as to the form of government he wished to establish.

But all this time Aguinaldo was preparing for war and delaying these messages, and it was understood the attack would come when the first act of the American forces which would afford a pretext for the war.

A brief chapter tells of the lack of successes attending the effort made at this time by General Merritt through a commission to arrive at a mutual understanding with Aguinaldo as to the intentions, purposes and desires of the Filipino people.

This brings the story up to the outbreak on the evening of the 4th of February, with the attack upon the American troops following the action of the Nebraska sentinel.

Fight the Americans.

The commission, in concluding this chapter, says:

"The landing of our troops at Manila made up his mind that it would be necessary to fight the Americans, and after the making of the treaty of peace at Paris this determination was strengthened. He did not only openly declare that he intended to fight the Americans, but he excited every class, and especially the military, by claiming independence, and by claiming whether he had the power to check or control the army at the time hostilities broke out."

The declaration of war is the one in which we are now engaged was unavoidable. No alternative was left to us, except ignominious retreat. It was made to the powerful, Kalipunan society, patterned on the Masonic order, and mainly made up of Tagalos, as a powerful revolutionary force.

The War of 1896.

The war began in 1896 was terminated by the treaty of Paris. The Philippines were numerous, but possessed about only 800 small arms. The Spaniards felt that it would require 100,000 men to capture their strongholds, and concluded to resort to the use of money. Certain concessions were also decided upon, including representation of the Philippines in the cortes, the deposition of the friars, and the abolition of the tribute.

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FAITH IN CONGRESS

Aguinaldo Issues Proclamation Encouraging Filipinos.

ADVISE TO HIS SOLDIERS

SHOW AMERICANS THEY ARE WORTHY OF INDEPENDENCE.

Tells Them the Question Will Be Settled in Washington When the National Law-makers Meet in December—Crisis in the Insurgent Cabinet Is Predicted.

Manila, Nov. 2.—Aguinaldo has issued a proclamation announcing that the American congress will meet in December to decide whether "the imperialist policy" and "this bloody work" are to be continued. He exhorts his soldiers to conduct themselves so that congress will consider them worthy of independence, and requests the priests to abstain from politics and to redeem the church from the name of the misdeeds of the friars has given it.

Some Filipino cabinet members are predicted as a result of the resignations of Paterno and Beaumont, two Filipino leaders who have lost the confidence of the rabid revolutionists. Some Filipinos who attempted to come to Manila with the Spanish commission received a message from Major General Otis, saying the women and children would be given American protection, but the men who had cast their lot with the insurgents must remain with it. The party included a brother of the late General Otis, a brother-in-law by the guard before Aguinaldo's headquarters, with his family, and the Filipino secretary of the treasury. The families returned to Tarlac.

Driven From Trenches.

Lieutenant Stevens of General MacArthur's staff, reconnoitering with a detachment of men in front of Angeles, discovered a Filipino outpost in a trench. The Filipinos numbered about forty men. As the Filipinos had sighted the Americans, they were ordered to retreat. The Filipinos were ordered to retreat. The Filipinos were ordered to retreat. The Filipinos were ordered to retreat.

The feeling of distrust between the two sides was increased by the arrest of Santiago, the wealthy Filipino, who is charged with forming a revolutionary junta, has subsided. The natives in the town were sullen and restless, and were heard chanting the death song at night, with the refrain, "The Americans sleep." A provost marshal force surrounded the quarters and drove the suspicious looking natives outside the lines.

Forces Close to Each Other.

The Americans occupy Iloilo and the adjoining towns of Jaro and Molo with 4,000 men, consisting of the Eighteenth and Twenty-sixth regiments. Two battalions of the Nineteenth regiment, a detachment of the Sixth regiment and a battery of the Sixth artillery. The insurgent force, now supposed to be between 1,000 and 2,000 men, and many more unarmed. Their lines are about 90 yards from Jaro, which is occupied by the Twenty-sixth regiment. The insurgents are supposed to have five smooth-bore cannons. For a long time past they have been building trenches between Jaro and their stronghold, Santa Barbara, eight miles north.

MORE AMERICANS KILLED.

Troops Have Several Encounters With the Insurgents.

Manila, Nov. 3.—The insurgents attempted to ambush Captain Batson's scouts between Santiago and Saragosa, but Captain Batson charged them and drove them out from their position, killing and wounding several of them. One American officer was killed and a private wounded.

The American troops are beginning to live on the country, trying buffalo meat and rice, partly in lieu of army rations. The captures at the Talavera arsenal include thirteen small brass howitzers and 800 one-pound projectiles.

Major Bell's regiment yesterday advanced from Guagua on Florida Blanca, which was found to be deserted. Bishop's battalion is stronger than before. Major Porac, pursuing the Filipinos thence into the mountains and capturing their horses and baggage.

The American loss was one killed and one wounded. Major Bell reports that he entirely destroyed the insurgent cavalry that was operating in that section.

NOW READY FOR DUTY.

Three Spanish Cruisers Raised By Lieutenant Hobson.

San Francisco, Nov. 2.—A few days before the steamship China left Hongkong the announcement was made that the three cruisers formerly of the Spanish navy at Manila, the Isla de Cuba, Isla de Luzon and Don Juan de Austria, were ready to proceed to Manila and join Admiral Watson's squadron. The reconstruction of the vessels has been under the supervision of Lieutenant Hobson. The vessels will be placed on blockade duty in the Philippines.

The three cruisers were sunk at Cavite by the ships of Dewey, and the estimated cost of repairing the ships, exclusive of armament, is \$204,000.

Sailed For Philippines.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 2.—United States transport "Pensylvania" and Olympia sailed for the Philippines tonight with the Thirty-ninth infantry and two companies of the Forty-fifth infantry on

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